DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Friday, November 7, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:49pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:42am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	17°C
Maximum	32°C
Humidity	48%
Outlook	Sunny

De Kock smashes ton as South Africa level ODI series

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JI plea against loadshedding dismissed

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Dismissing a petition filed by the Jamaat-i-Islami against loadshedding, the Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday referred the matter to the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) with a direction to decide it within one month.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro dismissed the plea for not being maintainable.

The JI had petitioned the SHC last year, contending that K-Electric (KE) had been carrying out loadshedding for an average duration of 10 to 16 hours daily in various localities of the city.

At the last hearing, the bench had observed that, prima facie, the petition was not maintainable as the issue of loadshedding had already been decided by the Supreme Court.

On Thursday, the bench heard arguments on this point, while counsel for KE submitted a statement along with a copy of the order passed by the SC in October 2023, wherein the same issue was decided.

Reproducing the apex court's order, the bench said that, as per the top court, the relevant forum for redressal of grievances of the respondents was Nepra.

"…we are clear in our mind that this petition is not maintainable. Accordingly, the same is dismissed. However, the matter of load shedding is referred to NEPRA for a decision within a period of one month and report to be submitted through MIT-II of this Court," it added.

Sindh launches digital platform to monitor attendance in schools

CM Murad says system will help reduce absenteeism; calls it 'nationally replicable model' to identify challenges facing students

By Tahir Siddiqui

CHIEF Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presses the button, alongside Education Minister Sardar Shah and World Bank Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar, to formally launch the Student Attendance Monitoring and Redress System.—PPI

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday launched the Student Attendance Monitoring and Redress System (SAMRS), describing it as a "pioneering, transformative, and nationally replicable model" that puts technology and evidence-based planning at the core of education reform.

Speaking at the provincial launch ceremony held at a local hotel, the chief minister said SAMRS marked the first time that Sindh—or any province in Pakistan—had introduced an integrated digital platform linking student attendance, school infrastructure, teacher performance, and learning outcomes.

"This is not just a monitoring tool. It is a system that allows us to make decisions grounded in data rather than assumptions. It provides the clarity to identify the challenges our children face and the ability to respond quickly and effectively," he said.

The ceremony was attended by Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah, the World Bank Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar, senior representatives of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Asian Development Bank (ADB), British Council, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), officials of the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD), education experts and development partners.

'A model for Pakistan'

The chief minister emphasised that SAMRS had already gone live in 600 schools across 12 districts, with expansion in progress in four more districts through a Unicef-supported initiative. He stated that the system was designed not only to track absenteeism but also to predict dropout risks, suggest interventions, and enhance overall school management.

"SAMRS is a model that Pakistan can follow," he said. "We are institutionalising it through a new policy that ensures long-term sustainability, ownership, and integration with Sindh's education governance framework."

He expressed gratitude to the World Bank, GPE, and all development partners for their "trust, technical guidance, and unwavering support" in strengthening public education in Sindh. The CM also praised the School Education Department, the Reform Support Unit (RSU), and the Sindh Early Learning Enhancement through Classroom Transformation (SELECT) project team for their "innovation, dedication, and perseverance."

Multi-sector vision for child well-being

CM Shah highlighted the importance of linking education with health, nutrition, and child protection, urging partners to explore the integration of SAMRS with child immunisation programs, health screenings, and social safety systems.

"Schools must be more than classrooms," he said. "They must become centres of child well-being and community trust."

Minister praises 'landmark achievement'

In his address, Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah called SAMRS a "game-changer," constructing a digital ecosystem where attendance, performance, and school infrastructure data come together to guide decisions.

"With support from the National Database and Registration Authority, student identities are now shifting from system-generated IDs to verified B-Form numbers, ensuring every child in Sindh is counted and supported," he said.

He noted that 99 per cent of schools using SAMRS reported attendance, and 92pc implemented redress procedures, a significant step toward reducing dropouts.

World Bank Country Director Bolormaa Amgaabazar, on the occasion, stated that SAMRS was not a donor-driven project but was planned by the Sindh government. "It is not a student's attendance system, but it is a commitment of the provincial

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Four more dengue deaths take official tally to 25 in Sindh

By Faiza Ilyas

KARACHI: The health department declared on Thursday four more deaths — three of them children under 12 years — from dengue fever, raising the official tally to 25 in the province.

According to the department's data, two victims — a 30-year-old woman residing in district South and an 11-year-old girl residing in Keamari — had been admitted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital and the Ziauddin Hospital in Karachi.

The two other victims — a six-year-old boy hailing from Badin and a three-year-old girl — died at Liaquat University Hospital in Hyderabad.

Out of the total 5,899 patients who went for tests for the mosquito-borne viral infection during the last 24 hours in the province, 1,192 tested positive.

In Karachi and Hyderabad divisions, 642 and 550 new cases of dengue fever were confirmed.

The number of new admissions at government and private hospitals stood at 109 and 100, respectively.

"A total of 4,940 dengue cases have been recorded across the province so far this month, while the total number of dengue-affected people this year has risen to 10,502," secretary health Rehan Baloch stated in a press statement.

Sources said the situation was far more serious than what was being officially presented as at least 28 lives had been lost to the illness in Karachi alone — 12 deaths at the Sindh Institute of Infectious Diseases and Research Centre, six at the Aga Khan University Hospital and 10 at the Indus Hospital.

"The general public is paying a high cost for official negligence. If the government had timely initiated vector-control measures, we wouldn't have been seeing so many people dying from an easily preventable disease," said Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro of the Pakistan Medical Association

50pc of sanctioned posts at three Karachi zoos vacant due to ban on govt recruitment, SHC told

- KMC says Karachi Zoo, Safari Park, Landhi-Korangi Zoo have only one vet
- Bench annoyed over non-functional X-ray machines, other equipment

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation on Thursday informed the Sindh High Court that nearly 50 per cent of the sanctioned posts in its three city zoos — Karachi Zoological Garden, Safari Park and Landhi-Korangi Zoo — were vacant due to a ban on recruitment.

In a report submitted before a two-judge bench headed by Justice Muhammad Iqbal Kalhoro, the KMC stated that there were 233 sanctioned posts in the three recreational facilities, which are the backbone of zoo management and daily animal care operations, but 116 of them, including of vets, are currently vacant.

It submitted that the latest ban on recruitment was imposed through an order issued in June last year by the additional chief secretary, local government department, but it had been making continuous efforts to fill the vacant posts.

In compliance with the SHC's earlier order regarding relocation of zoo bear Rano, the senior director-zoo filed a report and stated that the bear had been shifted to a sanctuary in the federal capital and all possible efforts were being made for the welfare of animals housed under the care of the KMC.

The director stated that the recreation department of KMC is consisted of Karachi Zoo, Safari Park and Landhi-Korangi Zoo responsible for the conservation and management of wildlife including.

The report said that as per the establishment set-up formed nearly six decades ago, the recreation department has three sanctioned positions for veterinarians — two for Karachi Zoo and one for Safari Park. However, only one vet, an assistant director, was currently working as two other posts were vacant.

The report maintained that not only the post of veterinarian but also other key operational positions such as head zookeeper, assistant head zookeeper, zookeepers and mahawat remained vacant.

It said that these positions formed the backbone of the zoo management and daily animal care operations.

It said that as per Council Resolution No. 675 dated Feb 24, 1997, a panel of veterinary consultants was created to assist and help the council's vet and institutions in case of emergency and at present, three senior most veterinarians were on the panel as consultant.

It said Austria-based animal welfare and rescue group Four Paws has also been the primary consultant for the elephants since 2021 in line with the earlier orders of the SHC.

The report stated that the KMC had also constituted a technical committee headed by Dr R.C. Rajapaksa, director general National Zoological Department, Sri Lanka, as chairman and co-chaired by Dr Amir Khalil, director Four Paws.

The report said in January Dr Khalil personally examined Rano and confirmed that the female bear was a Syrian species, characterised by a whitish claw distinguishing it from all other bear subspecies worldwide.

"Keeping in view the assessment and confirmation by international experts who have extensive experience working with bears globally, it is surprising how certain local NGOs are claiming that the bear in question is a Himalayan species," the KMC official wondered.

During the hearing, petitioner's counsel Jibran Nasir claimed that beside shortage of staff, the X-ray machines and operation theatres were also out of order.

The bench came down hard on the authorities over alleged mismanagement and directed them to fix the X-ray machines and other equipment.

The bench also remarked that the zoos should be converted into national parks.

It warned that if these issues were not addressed, the same would be referred to the National Accountability Bureau for investigations.

The bench adjourned the hearing for two weeks and directed a committee formed by the chief minister on court orders to file its progress report on the next date.

Minibus runs over, kills two brothers in Saeedabad

KARACHI: A fast-moving minibus on Wednesday evening ran over and killed two brothers riding a motorcycle before it overturned, injuring 11 passengers, officials said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the route X-8 minibus hit the brothers near the Surti graveyard within the remit of the Saeedabad police station and overturned.

The injured motorcyclists and passengers were taken to the trauma centre of the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi, where doctors pronounced Ali Shah, 18, and his brother Daniyal, 15, dead on arrival.

The injured were identified as Ashiq Khan, 55, Saeed Ahmed, 28, Shoaib, 32, Abdul Baseel, 38, Mohammed Kamal, 55, Saleem, 45, Zeenat Munir, 55, Aqeel Malik, 55, Musafir Salman, 35, Maqsood Naushad, 35, and an unidentified 30-year-old man.

Meanwhile, the Sindh chief minister expressed his regrets over the loss of precious lives and directed the city commissioner and the KMC for immediate relief steps. —Staff Reporter

Huge crowds throng Expo Centre as four-day maritime show ends

Maritime affairs minister announced establishment of Green Ship Repair and Recycling Yard at Port Qasim

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The four-day Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference 2025 (PIMEC-25) successfully concluded at the Karachi Expo Centre on Thursday.

The last day of the event was opened to the general public after 12pm and there was a sudden change of scene and pace at PIMEC-25.

People turned out at the Expo Centre in huge numbers. The youth were eager to see the stall displays which they had been reading about and watching on the various news channels and social media.

The biggest drawers of crowds were the Juggernaut multi-rotor munition drone and the long-range kamikaze (loitering munition) drone Sarfarosh, two big heroes of the recent Pakistan-India conflict.

The Sindh and Balochistan pavilions were also appreciated by the visitors.

Some of the stalls which had held back selling their display items for the previous three days, finally let people buy them. One of these was the organic olive oil and honey being sold at a stall in the Balochistan pavilion.

The people also enjoyed taking turns inside the various armoured vehicles on display at the exhibition.

Earlier, the closing ceremony of PIMEC was attended by Maritime Affairs Minister Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry.

As the chief guest, he announced the establishment of Pakistan's first Green Ship Repair and Recycling Yard at Port Qasim.

The minister highlighted that, looking ahead to Pakistan's "Maritime Century (2047-2147)", the five pillars include developing three new deep-sea ports, expanding the national shipping fleet, building artificial intelligence-enabled maritime industrial complexes, achieving 100 per cent green digital ports, and leading regional maritime cooperation.

'Ideal platform for maritime collaboration'

Earlier, Commander Karachi (Comkar) Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi extended his sincere appreciation to the visiting delegates, scholars, maritime experts and exhibitors for their dynamic participation throughout the event.

He emphasised that PIMEC provides an ideal platform for Pakistan's maritime industry to exchange ideas and create new avenues for a prosperous maritime future.

The Comkar also appreciated the National Institute of Maritime Affairs (Nima) for successfully organising the international maritime conference on the theme of "Harnessing Blue Economy Potential for Sustainable Development" during the event.

A WOMAN aims an assault rifle displayed at the exhibition. —PPI

Rs76bn MoUs signed to boost blue economy

The second edition of PIMEC-25 marked a major milestone in advancing Pakistan's maritime and blue economy agenda, with the signing of 83 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs76 billion between national and international exhibitors across multiple maritime sectors.

The MoU signings at PIMEC-25 serve as a concrete signal from Pakistan to international investors, emphasising its commitment to fostering strategic partnerships, promoting technology transfer, enhancing capacity building, and unlocking large-scale opportunities in the maritime sector.

PIMEC-25 received an overwhelming international response, featuring participation from 178 exhibitors, including 28 international firms and 150 local organisations showcasing a wide range of maritime innovations, technologies and services.

The event was also attended by 133 international delegations representing 44 countries across Europe, Asia, North America, South America, Africa, the Middle East, and the Far East, underscoring PIMEC's growing stature as a premier maritime event in the region.

The successful conclusion of PIMEC-25 not only highlights Pakistan's potential as a maritime hub but also reflects the nation's growing role in shaping the regional blue economy landscape.